

# Changing the Way You Think

## Church and Culture (Part 4): Sin, Salt, & Loss

### Summary

**Philippians 2:15-16** *“Shine like stars in the dark... You offer the teaching that gives life.”*

- **Lead Intentionally Open & Transparent Lives**
  - You Purposefully and Continuously Intersect with Others and Their Lives
  - Your Life is Visible to Others
- **“Offer” – NOT Police, Judge, Condemn, Debate, Avoid, or Ignore**
  - Hospitable and Welcoming

## Sin

It is essential to have a clear understanding of the reality and nature of Sin.

- The concept of Sin has almost disappeared entirely from culture.
- It is significantly misunderstood in the minds of many, if not most, modern Christians.

### James 1:14-15

**Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death (NLT).**

**Each person is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it has run its course, brings forth death (NASB).**

***“Sin is getting your needs met apart from God.”***

**At its core, Sin is claiming Lordship and control of your own life. It is a frame of mind, a way of thinking.**

- It is choosing your goals, direction, methods, and timing.
- Sin is the opposite of contentment in God’s provision and decisions for your life.
- It is rejecting the gifts, circumstances, identity, and calling God has chosen for you.

**Sin is also a Deception, with an Unexpected Strength and a Malicious, Sinister Purpose that “drags us away” to Imprison us and Inflict Great Sorrow and Destruction.**

- It’s more than an event, unpleasant or hurtful action, or just what “bad people do...”

**Understanding this should radically change how believers interact with people in Sin’s grip.**

### Genesis 3:4-8

The serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die! For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil.”<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took some of its fruit and ate; and she also gave *some* to her husband with her, and he ate.<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked and they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God...

# Salt

## Clip: The Chosen

### Matthew 5:14

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by people.

- "Holding back the evil in this world..."
- "Renew this world..."
- "I want My Followers to Participate in the healing of this world"

# LOSS

### John 6:60-61, 66-67

So then many of His disciples, when they heard *this*, said, "This statement is *very* unpleasant; who can listen to it?" But Jesus, aware that His disciples were complaining about this, said to them, "Is this offensive to you?"

As a result of this many of His disciples left, and would no longer walk with Him. So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to leave also, do you?"

- This is heartbreaking to me...I know this pain well.
  - You fall in love with people
  - You carry with them their hurts, sorrows, disappointments, anxieties, and fears
  - You invest, plant, water...
  - It is devastating...DEVESTATING to lose them to SIN

### Romans 9:2-4

My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them.

- But that will always be a risk you take...Be prepared for it...But never, never, ever give up!

Now, with a correct posture toward the world we've been sent to, and with a true understanding of Sin, Salt, and Loss...We can "Offer" the world God's good plans for life...

Identity  
Purpose  
Success  
Beauty  
Love  
Hope